AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application, includes any amendments made to the claims herein, and further includes the status of each claim:

1. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, comprising:

a panel assembly comprising a plurality of interconnected panels comprising a plurality of base sections and a plurality of ribs, wherein said plurality of base sections comprises first and second base sections, wherein said plurality of ribs are disposed in spaced relation and comprise a first rib disposed between said first and second base sections, wherein said first rib comprises a first sidewall that extends away from said first base section, as well as a second sidewall that extends away from said second base section; and

a clamp mounted on said first rib and comprising:

a first clamping member that engages said first sidewall of said first rib and that also extends beyond said first rib, wherein said first clamping member comprises a mounting flange in the form of a cantilever;

an attachment mounting fastener threadably engaged with said mounting flange;

a second clamping member that engages said second sidewall of said first rib and that also extends beyond said first rib, wherein said second clamping member is pivotable relative to first clamping member, and wherein a first end of said second clamping member engages an underside of said mounting flange; and

a first fastener located beyond said first rib, associated with each of said first and second clamping members, and in addition to said attachment mounting fastener, wherein activation of said first fastener causes said second clamping member to pivot relative to said first clamping member at least generally about said first end such that said first and second clamping members each exert at least an inwardly-directed force on said first rib.

2. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said plurality of ribs are each hollow and of a trapezoidal-type.

3. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

a first reference plane is associated with said plurality of base sections;

said first and second clamping members are disposed on opposite sides of a second reference plane that is perpendicular to said first reference plane and that extends along a length dimension of said first rib;

said first clamping member further comprises first, second and third sections, wherein said first section is disposed beyond said first rib, is disposed at least generally parallel with said first reference plane, and comprises said mounting flange, wherein said second section extends from said first section toward said first reference plane in a first orientation relative to said second reference plane and is also disposed beyond said first rib, and wherein said third section extends from said second section toward said first reference plane in a second orientation relative to said second reference plane and engages said first sidewall of said first rib, wherein said first and second orientations are different; and

said second clamping member further comprises fourth and fifth sections, wherein said fourth section is disposed beyond said first rib and extends toward said first reference plane in a third orientation relative to said second reference plane, and wherein said fifth section extends from said fourth section toward said first reference plane in a fourth orientation relative to said second reference plane and engages said second sidewall of said first rib, wherein said third and fourth orientations are different, and wherein said fourth and fifth sections of said second clamping member are at least generally a mirror image of said second and third sections of said first clamping member.

4. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said underside of said mounting flange of said first clamping member comprises a recess that is concave and arcuately-shaped, and wherein said first end of said second clamping member comprises a first projection that is convex and arcuately-shaped, and further that is disposed in said recess of said first clamping member to provide a pivotal connection of said second clamping member to said first clamping member.

5. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said second sidewall comprises a second indentation on an exterior surface of said first rib, and wherein said second clamping member comprises a second head disposed in said second indentation.

6. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 5, wherein:

said first sidewall comprises a first indentation on said exterior surface of said first rib, and wherein said first clamping member comprises a first head disposed in said first indentation.

7. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 5, wherein:

said first sidewall is free of any indentations on said exterior surface of said first rib.

8. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 7, wherein:

said clamp further comprises a second fastener that extends through said first clamping member and through an aligned portion of said first sidewall of said first rib.

9. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

an attachment mounted on said first clamping member.

10. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:

said first clamping member comprises a threaded bore, wherein said clamp further comprises a first threaded fastener that extends through said attachment and at least into said threaded bore to mount said attachment to said first clamping member.

11. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:

said threaded bore extends completely through said first clamping member, wherein said first threaded fastener extends completely through said threaded bore, and wherein said first threaded fastener lacks a nut for retaining said first threaded fastener on said first clamping member.

12. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

one of said first and second clamping members comprises a non-threaded bore, wherein the other of said first and second clamping members comprises a threaded bore, and wherein said first fastener extends through said non-threaded bore and at least into said threaded bore.

13. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:

said first fastener extends completely through each of said first and second clamping members, wherein said first fastener lacks a nut for retaining said first fastener relative to said first and second clamping members.

14. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

one of said first and second clamping members comprises a non-threaded slot, wherein the other of said first and second clamping members comprises a threaded bore, and wherein said first fastener extends through said non-threaded slot and at least into said threaded bore.

15. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

an insert disposed within a hollow interior of said first rib, wherein said clamp is mounted on said first rib in overlying relation to said insert such that said first rib is disposed between said clamp and said insert.

16-30 (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A clamp and panel assembly, comprising:

a panel assembly comprising a plurality of interconnected panels comprising a plurality of base sections and a plurality of ribs, wherein said plurality of base sections comprises first and second base sections, wherein said plurality of ribs are disposed in spaced relation and comprise a first rib disposed between said first and second base sections, wherein said first rib comprises a first sidewall that extends away from said first base section, as well as a second sidewall that extends away from said second base section; and

a clamp mounted on said first rib and comprising:

a first clamping member that engages said first sidewall of said first rib, wherein said first clamping member also extends beyond said first rib in a direction that is away from a first reference plane that contains said first and second base sections, wherein said first clamping member comprises a mounting flange in the form of a cantilever that extends away from a second reference plane that is orthogonal to said first reference plane and that extends along a length dimension of said first rib;

an attachment mounting fastener threadably engaged with said mounting flange;

a second clamping member that engages said second sidewall of said first rib, wherein said second clamping member also extends beyond said first rib in a direction that is away from said first reference plane that contains said first and second base sections, wherein said second clamping member is a separate piece from said first clamping member, and wherein a first end of said second clamping member engages an underside of said mounting flange; and

a first fastener located beyond said first rib in a direction that is away from said first reference plane that contains said first and second base sections, that is associated with each of said first and second clamping members, and that is in addition to said attachment mounting fastener, wherein activation of said first fastener causes said first and second clamping members to each exert at least an inwardly-directed force on said first rib, and wherein said first fastener lacks a nut for retaining said first fastener relative to each of said first and second clamping members.

32-37 (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A clamp and panel assembly, comprising:

a panel assembly comprising a plurality of interconnected panels comprising a plurality of base sections and a plurality of ribs, wherein said plurality of base sections comprises first and second base sections, wherein said plurality of ribs are disposed in spaced relation and comprise a first rib disposed between said first and second base sections, wherein said first rib comprises a first sidewall that extends away from said first base section, as well as a second sidewall that extends away from said second base section ~~and that is disposed in non-parallel relation with said first sidewall~~, wherein said second sidewall comprises a second indentation on an exterior surface of said first rib; and

a clamp mounted on said first rib and comprising:

a first clamping member that engages said first sidewall of said first rib and that also extends beyond said first rib in a direction that is away from a first reference plane that contains said first and second base sections, wherein said first clamping member comprises a mounting flange in the form of a cantilever that extends away from a second reference plane that is orthogonal to said first reference plane and that extends along a length dimension of said first rib;

an attachment mounting fastener threadably engaged with said mounting flange;

a second clamping member that engages said second sidewall of said first rib and that also extends beyond said first rib in a direction that is away from said first reference plane that contains said first and second base sections, wherein said second clamping member is a separate piece from said first clamping member, and wherein said second clamping member comprises a first end that engages an underside of said mounting flange, as well as a second head that is disposed in said second indentation; and

a first fastener located beyond said first rib in a direction that is away from said first reference plane that contains said first and second base sections, that is associated with each of said

first and second clamping members, and that is in addition to said attachment mounting fastener, wherein activation of said first fastener causes said first and second clamping members to each exert at least an inwardly-directed force on said first rib.

39. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

said first rib is hollow and of a trapezoidal-type.

40. (Currently amended) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

~~a~~ said first reference plane is associated with said plurality of base sections, and wherein said first rib comprises a top wall that interconnects said first and second sidewalls and that is disposed in spaced relation to said first and second base sections.

41. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

said first sidewall comprises a first indentation on said exterior surface of said first rib, wherein said clamp further comprises a first head disposed in said first indentation.

42. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 41, wherein:

said first and second heads are each convexly-shaped.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

activation of said first fastener causes said second clamping member to pivot relative to said first clamping member.

45. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

said underside of said mounting flange of said first clamping member comprises a recess that is concave and arcuately-shaped, and wherein said first end of said second clamping member comprises a first projection that is convex and arcuately-shaped, and further that is disposed in said recess of said first clamping member, wherein said activation of said first fastener causes said second clamping member to move relative to said first clamping member at least generally about said first projection.

46. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

said clamp engages said first sidewall, and wherein said first sidewall is free of any indentation on said exterior surface of said first rib.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 47, wherein:

said clamp further comprises a second fastener that extends through said first clamping member and through an aligned portion of said first sidewall.

49. (Currently amended) A clamp and panel assembly, comprising:

a panel assembly comprising a plurality of interconnected panels comprising a plurality of base sections and a plurality of ribs, wherein said plurality of base sections comprises first and second base sections, wherein said plurality of ribs are disposed in spaced relation and comprise a first rib disposed between said first and second base sections, wherein said first rib comprises a first sidewall that extends away from said first base section, as well as a second sidewall that extends away from said second base section; and

a clamp mounted on said first rib and comprising:

a first clamping member that engages said first sidewall of said first rib and comprises a first section that is disposed beyond said first rib, and wherein said first section comprises a mounting flange in the form of a cantilever;

an attachment mounting fastener threadably engaged with said mounting flange;

a second clamping member that engages said second sidewall of said first rib, that extends beyond said first rib, and that comprises a first end that engages an underside of said mounting flange of said first clamping member; and

a first fastener located beyond said first rib, associated with each of said first and second clamping members, and in addition to said attachment mounting fastener, wherein activation of said first fastener retains said first and second clamping members on said first rib, wherein:

a first reference plane is associated with said plurality of base sections;

said first and second clamping members are disposed on opposite sides of a second reference plane that is perpendicular to said first reference plane and that extends along a length dimension of said first rib;

said first clamping member further comprises second and third sections, wherein said first section is disposed at least generally parallel with said first reference plane, wherein said second

section extends from said first section toward said first reference plane in a first orientation relative to said second reference plane and is also disposed beyond said first rib, and wherein said third section extends from said second section toward said first reference plane in a second orientation relative to said second reference plane and engages said first sidewall of said first rib, wherein said first and second orientations are different; and

said second clamping member further comprises fourth and fifth sections, wherein said fourth section is disposed beyond said first rib and extends toward said first reference plane in a third orientation relative to said second reference plane, and wherein said fifth section extends from said fourth section toward said first reference plane in a fourth orientation relative to said second reference plane and engages said second sidewall of said first rib, wherein said third and fourth orientations are different, and wherein said fourth and fifth sections of said second clamping member are at least generally a mirror image of said second and third sections of said first clamping member.

50. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 49, wherein:

said first fastener lacks a nut for retaining said first fastener relative to each of said first and second clamping members.

51. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 49, wherein:

said first section of said first clamping member is at least generally parallel with said first base section.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 49, wherein:

said second sidewall comprises a second indentation on an exterior surface of said first rib, and wherein said second clamping member comprises a second head disposed in said second indentation.

54. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 53, wherein:

said first sidewall comprises a first indentation on said exterior surface of said first rib, and wherein said first clamping member comprises a first head disposed in said first indentation.

55. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 53, wherein:

said first sidewall is free of any indentations on said exterior surface of said first rib.

56. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 55, wherein:

said clamp further comprises a second fastener that extends through said first clamping member and through an aligned portion of said first sidewall of said first rib.

57. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 49, further comprising:

an attachment mounted on said first section of said first clamping member.

58. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 57, wherein:

said clamp further comprises a first threaded fastener that extends through said attachment and at least into said first threaded bore to mount said attachment to said first section of said first clamping member.

59. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 58, wherein:

said first threaded bore extends completely through said first clamping member, wherein said first threaded fastener extends completely through said first threaded bore, and wherein said first threaded fastener lacks a nut for retaining said first threaded fastener on said first clamping member.

60. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 49, wherein:

one of said first and second clamping members comprises a non-threaded bore, wherein the other of said first and second clamping members comprises a threaded bore, and wherein said first fastener extends through said non-threaded bore and at least into said threaded bore.

61. (Previously presented) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 60, wherein:

said first fastener extends completely through each of said first and second clamping members, wherein said first fastener lacks a nut for retaining said first fastener relative to said first and second clamping members.

62. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 49, wherein:

one of said first and second clamping members comprises a non-threaded slot, wherein the other of said first and second clamping members comprises a threaded bore, and wherein said first fastener extends through said non-threaded slot and at least into said threaded bore.

63. (Withdrawn) A clamp/panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 49, further comprising:

an insert disposed within a hollow interior of said first rib, wherein said clamp is mounted on said first rib in overlying relation to said insert such that said first rib is disposed between said clamp and said insert.

64. (New) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 31, wherein said mounting flange is spaced further from said first reference plane that contains said first and second base sections than an uppermost extreme of said first rib.

65. (New) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 31, wherein said mounting flange is parallel with said first reference plane.

66. (New) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 31, wherein said first end of said second clamping member engages said underside of said mounting flange at a location that is spaced further from said first reference plane than an uppermost extreme of said first rib.

67. (New) A clamp and panel assembly, as claimed in Claim 31, wherein said first fastener extends through one of said first and second clamping members and is threadably engaged with the other of said first and second clamping members.